Abstract of the Disclosure

Smart cards and other such devices with limited memory capacity function as hosts for services on a distributed computing network. The information to be deployed in the distributed computing system to provide access to those services is separated into two categories. One category consists of the information that is generic to all instances of the service. The second category constitutes that information which is specific to one instance of the application which provides a service. The specific information is stored on the smart card, whereas the generic information is stored elsewhere on the distributed computing network, for example on a server. In addition to the specific information, the card stores the address at which the generic information can be located on the network. When a card is inserted in a terminal connected to the network, the terminal retrieves the specific deployment information, along with the address for the generic information. The generic information is then retrieved, validated by the card, and combined with the specific information to construct a service bundle. This service bundle is then uploaded to an appropriate location on the network, to thereby advertise the availability of the service, as well as provide all of the necessary information to access the service.